

Today

What Rep. Miller Said.  
The Leopard's Spots.  
The Whining Stage.  
Go on Sweeping.

Representative Miller of Washington saw American soldiers blacking the shoes of American officers in France. That is just one step removed from blacking the shoes of the Kaiser. You may say that it does not hurt the soldier. Perhaps, but it does hurt the officers. An American officer too feeble to black his own boots should be put back in the downy nest from which the war removed him. Something was said about "democracy." Is it democracy to put one man in Government uniform blacking the shoes of another?

We enjoy a pleasant speaking acquaintance with two or three hundred Democratic statesmen very busy running for President of the United States (although the outside world may not know it). To the 300 candidates and the thousands of Democratic candidates with whom we are not acquainted we give a warning.

The Republicans are anxious to get you Democrats to do as much work as possible for them now while the war is on.

You will do the Republicans a great favor, Messrs. Democrats, if your Democratic Congress votes a Constitutional amendment to put all the workmen of the United States on an ice-water basis. Nothing could please the Republicans more than a piece of hypocritical stupidity that would coerce the workers to oblige a small minority and make absolutely impossible the victory of a Democratic candidate in New York, Massachusetts, or Illinois in 1920.

The Democrats will also oblige Republicans if they will kindly irritate organized labor as much as possible at this particular time, when labor is called upon to do the war work while others reap the war's glory.

Anybody's mind's eye can see the Republicans now urging and pushing Democrats to do foolish things that would make Republican victory certain in four years. Anybody can see the Republicans in the campaign of 1920, weeping crocodile tears over things done by Democrats and encouraged by the Republicans NOW.

Energetic, ambitious nations need room, and something to play with.

Our good friends and co-workers, the Japanese, seem to be finding plenty to do in China, and, as we suggested some time ago, China might keep Japan indefinitely happy and busy on her own side of the ocean, in China.

Nice slices of Russia might keep Prussia happy and busy toward the East. Big nations in the end always swallow little ones. Southern black-eyed races absorb the blue-eyed from the North. So the deliciously gentle mania of Russia would absorb and overcome the deliciously murderous mania of Prussia. They would all be little Bolsheviks together, finally, some embracing and kissing each other, sometimes blowing each other up with bombs—and the rest of us, in the words of the "Playboy of the Western World," might have "peace for our drinks."

The country has now reached the whining and complaining stage of war—reached at about the same time by the English. The Government is investigated, members of the Cabinet are abused, criticised, largely without just cause.

It is to be remembered that a group of good American citizens, above the average in intelligence, men of absolute honesty, sincerity, and devotion to the public good, have suddenly been put in charge of the greatest war, a thousand of the most difficult problems in the history of the world. To ask that these problems be solved in a few weeks and without mistakes is preposterous.

This newspaper, however, would offer one humble suggestion to men in Government.

Set a good example by STICKING TO YOUR JOB. Don't make speeches to ladies on the perfection with which they knit. Don't go to your "home town" to give a "little talk" to business men—that may help you to get something in the way of a better job later on.

Don't do ANYTHING to let the people think that your mind is off of the task that you have in hand.

A million men are risking their lives under your direction. They have a right to demand that you keep your eye and your thought on THEM, not on the "home town."

If you had hired a gentleman to sweep your sidewalk, you would expect him to keep sweeping until the job was done. You wouldn't want him to run home and tell his wife what a good sweeper he was.

KEEP ON WITH YOUR SWEEPING until you finish the job. Then run home and tell the ladies and the free and unfettered voters of the district all about it.

There are too many little notices in the paper about Secretary this or Secretary that going several hundred miles away from his job to bow, blush, and tell what a fine man he is. That will do later on.

WEATHER:  
CLOUDY TO-  
NIGHT AND  
MONDAY:  
SNOW

NUMBER 10,379.

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 16, 1917.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

# The Washington Times

FINAL  
EDITION

## MEANS ACQUITTED OF DEATH OF MRS. KING

### 3,946 TONS COAL COME IN DAY, YET CITY WANTS

#### Times' Men Find Seven Dumps Heaped With Fuel From Mines—Dealers Sell by Half Ton and Bushel.

Three thousand nine hundred and forty-six tons of coal arrived in Washington by railroad in the twenty-four hours ended at 7 a. m. yesterday morning.

The deliveries were thirty-nine cars of anthracite, with 1,815 tons, and forty-two cars of bituminous, with 2,131 tons.

Despite these heavy shipments, many Washingtonians are unable to get coal. The weather man sees no prospect of a break in the present cold wave, which is increasing in severity.

#### Seven Dumps Filled.

There is coal plenty at seven coal dumps in and around Washington visited by reporters for The Times.

Twenty-three loaded cars of anthracite are on sidings in the Eckington yards. But seven cars were being unloaded yesterday. The coal is frozen in the cars and must be broken out and shoveled over the top. It was being handled by one horse team.

Men working at the sidings and yard officials refused to give any information respecting this coal.

#### 900 Tons in Dump.

At Fourteenth street and Virginia avenue southwest there is about 900 tons of coal in the dump and fourteen cars in the yard. Most of this is for one of the biggest Washington dealers and is being moved rapidly.

Despite the brick work, it is stated that coal is coming. The fact that tracks and dumps can not be kept clear.

At Rosslyn, Va., there are several cars. Some are not being touched. Trucks and carts of a coal company were idle and covered with snow yesterday. Coal was being hauled away by small teams, apparently not those of a coal dealer.

There are about sixty cars of coal, mostly bituminous, at Benning, untouched. One carload of anthracite at Anacostia was being hauled away by boys with sleds. There were about five cars of bituminous dumped.

Bituminous coal is being rapidly unloaded at the Union Station "Y."

#### Must Carry Own Coal.

Many Washington dealers are telling applicants for coal that they can get it if they will carry it home. Many persons have made their own deliveries by hired trucks, getting no rebate for this delivery.

The Baltimore and Ohio tracks and yards are reported absolutely clear. The company could easily deliver 170 cars to Washington a day, having facilities for delivery of this amount, if it could be handled here, an official stated today. Shipments to this city are not being rushed, however. It is stated, because of inability to get them cleared after their arrival here.

#### POLICE QUELL RIOTING IN TENEMENT DISTRICT AS COAL SUPPLY FAILS

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Fuel shortage, which is causing suffering, privation, and even death in many States, is most severe in the East and in the coal regions—in towns which are nearest the big mines—according to a survey of the situation.

In the West municipal coal yards and strict supervision of distribution and sale are preventing danger of a famine.

But in many Eastern cities, except the New England district, there are chill homes, empty coal yards, and riots among the poor, who fight for the right to purchase a scanty supply. In New York half the yards are empty, and use of electricity is being curtailed to save fuel. Steam in some big tenements has been shut off, and police have been called to disperse coal riots.

#### Car Lack Blamed.

A lack of cars to carry anthracite and bituminous from the mines is one cause of this condition. Many train loads of coal are snowbound. Federal Fuel Administrator Garfield, speaking in New York, said the transportation situation was principally to blame for the famine.

The railroads, he said, are overwhelmed by war's demands. In Ohio, schools and colleges are closing for lack of heat. Thousands of men have been thrown out of work through lack of coal.

### Abuse of the Constitution

Cyrus H. K. Curtis, owner of the Ladies' Home Journal and the Saturday Evening Post, and editor of the Philadelphia Ledger, is certainly no enemy of real temperance and no enemy of the prohibitionists. He has always been an earnest temperance worker.

In his newspaper, the Evening Public Ledger, he had this to say on Tuesday last:

"We have repeatedly pointed out in these columns that to prostitute the Constitution to purposes of legislation is to undermine the authority of that instrument and imperil thereby the stability of the Government. Prohibition is a policy, not a principle. The Constitution has never been the vehicle for declarations of policy. Not even the Monroe doctrine has been incorporated into the fundamental law. To compel all the States to conform to the police regulations of a majority of the States would be to destroy local government, which, within the corpus of vast sovereignties, as well as in colonies, has been found by human experience to be vital to contentment among citizens."

### ELEVEN KILLED, CZAR'S FAMILY SIX BURIED IN MINE ALL "BUSTED" BY RUMORS

BLUEFIELD, W. Va., Dec. 16.—Six miners, entombed alive in the mine of the Yukon-Pocahontas Coal Company at Russana, twenty miles west of here, have been given up by their relatives, while eleven men were killed outright by an explosion.

The men, it is believed, have no chance of being rescued before death overtakes them.

They were imprisoned when the explosion in the mine last night wrecked the interior.

The bodies of the eleven victims have been recovered.

Searching parties are making an exhaustive search to locate other victims, and frantic efforts are being made to reach the six men entombed in one of the shafts, sealed by the explosion.

#### May Be Czar of Siberia.

Although the prison is 4,000 miles from the Pacific coast and 1,000 miles from the Chinese border, the difficulty of the "Zar's" escape are magnified by the fact that a large part of Siberia is reported favorable to him, and in fact, reports have it that Siberia has seceded from the remainder of Russia and established an independent government with the former Emperor at its head.

These reports lack official confirmation, however, but although the Bolsheviks deny the Czar's escape, they cannot satisfactorily explain why sailors and soldiers have been rushed to Siberia to search for him.

#### Family in Pitiable Condition.

As for the rest of the Czar's family—Olga, his eldest daughter, is reported ill today in the palace at Tobolsk. Marie, the youngest daughter, has been reported to be acting as an army nurse.

The Czarina is demoralized, according to recent dispatches from Russia. She was imprisoned at Tobolsk, but may now have been removed to a hospital or elsewhere.

About the "Zarevitch" little Alexia, one of Rubia's most pathetic figures—there is silence.

Have the enemies of the former ruler at last attained their purpose and made away with the once heir apparent?

She has been unable to make any statement other than that she was alone at the time. She was taken to "Frederman's" in a passing automobile. All efforts to arouse her from her coma have been fruitless.

### U. S. WILLEXPEND NINETY MILLION FOR WAR PLANT

More than ninety million dollars will be expended by the Government in the erection of government explosive plants, Secretary of War has announced.

Daniel C. Jackling, of San Francisco, has been appointed to take charge of the building of these plants.

The new Government plants will be built to supplement the present output of explosives by private manufacturers, considered insufficient to meet the Government's needs.

Jackling is managing director of a large group of copper mines, which produce a large percentage of the country's copper. He will act under authority of Secretary Baker, by whom he was appointed.

This step is in accordance with the Government's purpose to keep abreast of its war requirements and, where necessary, to anticipate them by forward action," said Secretary Baker.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Where is the Czar and the rest of the erstwhile imperial Russian family?

Now that it has been definitely settled that Tsarina, the former Czar's second daughter, has escaped and is somewhere in Europe or America on the high seas or anywhere but Tobolsk, where the Bolsheviks would like to have her, comes confirmation (?) of the announcement by Secretary Lansing recently that the Czar himself has fled.

Petrograd dispatches assert that a special train, manned with sailors, has been dispatched in search of the former ruler of all the Russias, who is at large after an escape from the prison palace at Tobolsk, Siberia.

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### TEST OF GARABED INVENTION GIVEN HOUSE'S APPROVAL

Thomas A. Edison, with four other internationally known scientists, may soon be called upon to rule on the genuineness of what is claimed to be the greatest invention of mankind.

The "Garabed" resolution, providing investigation of the purported discovery by Garabed T. K. Giragosian of a virgin natural force, passed the House on viva voce vote late yesterday. If the Senate and President Wilson approve it, a committee of five eminent scientists to which the invention will be demonstrated will be appointed.

### SABBATH QUIET HOLDS SWAY AT WHITE HOUSE

President Wilson and Mrs. Wilson spent a quiet morning at the White House today.

The President will probably go mourning this afternoon with Mrs. Wilson.

### WE'LL BREAK GERMAN LINE, GEN. PERSHING ASSURES U. S.

#### Enemy Positions Not Impregnable, American Commander's Message Sent Home Through Y. M. C. A. Man

LONDON, Dec. 16.—Sinking of a British destroyer in a collision Wednesday, with loss of two men, was announced last night by the admiralty.

The same statement detailed the loss of a British non-rigid airship, with its crew of five men, in the North Sea Tuesday. Another airship of the same type, it was stated, had been forced to descend over Holland Tuesday.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—"We can break through the German lines with a human wedge, and we will!"

That is Gen. "Fighting Jack" Pershing's characteristic answer to pessimistic statements that the German line is impregnable and that an attempt to pierce the Hindenburg line would result merely in a tremendous and brutal slaughter.

General Pershing sent his reassuring message to the American people through Charles W. Whitehair, secretary of the Cornell Y. M. C. A., who has just returned from the French and other European battle fronts.

"You must go back home and dispose of that sentiment that we can't break through the German lines," was what Pershing told me," said Mr. Whitehair.

"Tell everybody you meet of our determination to win," was his admonition to me."

### RUSSO-GERMAN PEACE TREATY ALREADY DRAFTED, IS AMSTERDAM REPORT

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 16.—On the heels of reports that an armistice has been definitely established by the Russo-German parley, comes the announcement that a formal treaty between Russia and Germany has already been drafted, and is under consideration of the delegates to the peace conference.

The formal announcement by Leon Trotsky has stated that the Russian delegates would be automatically empowered to discuss peace terms with the Germans immediately upon the conclusion of a satisfactory armistice. The German announcement concerning the peace proposal referred to the part of both sides the conditions and draft of a treaty were finally formulated in the plenary sitting Friday. As, however, the Russian delegates desired to obtain supplementary instructions on some points from their government, the general discussions were postponed.

### PETROGRAD, Dec. 16.—Evidence of intrigue in Russia is furnished by the report detailing the arrest of M. Schner, one of the three Bolshevik delegates who represented Russia at the recent armistice parleys at Brest-Litovsk. Schner has been arrested as a spy by the Bolsheviks themselves.

No intimation is given in the report as to the offense for which Schner has been arrested.

### TEUTONS TAKE CAPRILLE AFTER REPEATED DRIVES. ROME OFFICIALLY ADMITS

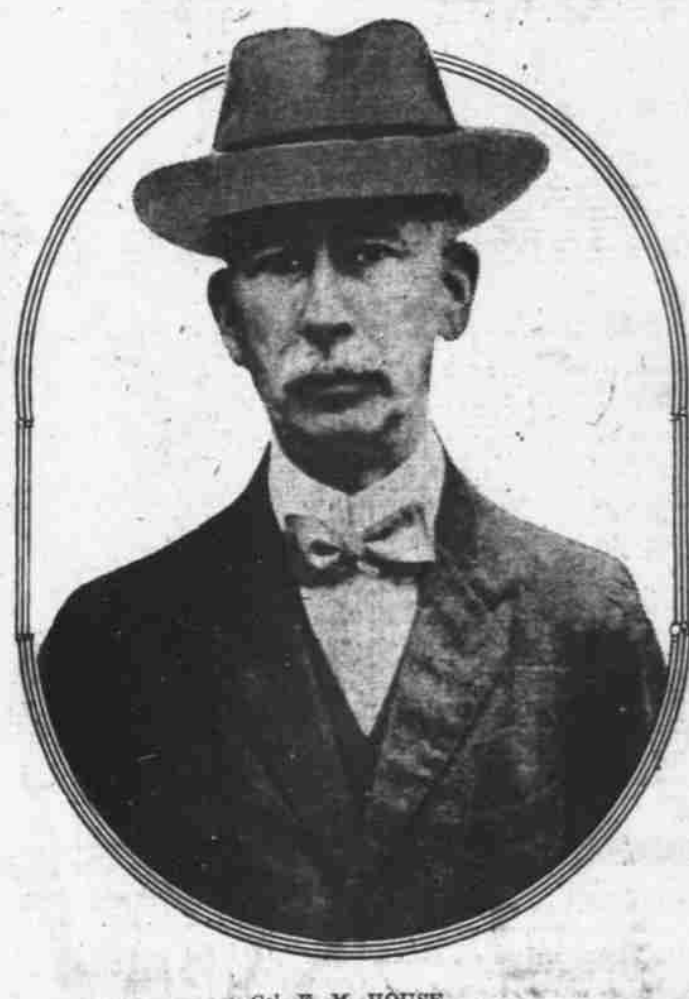
ROME, Dec. 16.—The Teutons are in possession of Caprille, announces the Italian official press, after a long and sustained fighting. The Italian troops' defense is highly praised.

It was not until repeated attacks by the invaders had been repulsed that they finally managed to secure a foothold toward nightfall. The Italians then retired, and darkness halted the engagement. The daring of our troops has been worthy the greatness of the hour," says the official report.

BERLIN, via London, Dec. 16.—German army headquarters report the capture of more than 3,000 Italians in the last few days' fighting between the Piave and the Brenta rivers.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—Artillerymen have reached a pitch of great violence in the "chaume" wood sector, the official statement asserts. The Germans are torturing this afternoon with Mrs. Wilson.

### Coming to Washington to Tell of Council



Col. E. M. HOUSE.  
Trusted emissary of the President, will be in Washington tomorrow to give news of the great allied councils to the Chief Executive.

### HOOVER MAKES HOT REPLY TO SPRECKELS HOUSE IS BACK WITH CHEERY STATEMENT

Claus Spreckels' slashing accusations before Senate sugar probes that the Government price fixers were handing over the "Sugar trust" have brought the heated answer from Herbert Hoover that Spreckels' independent statement is "a complete success" because his pocketbook has been touched by Federal regulation.

This statement marked the culmination of Spreckels' spectacular testimony, the principal points of which follow:

1.—That Earl D. Habb, trust head, and Hoover, international sugar committee member, asked him to write President Wilson urging dismissal of the pending dissolution suit against the "trust."

2.—That the food administration (Continued on Page 4, Column 3.)

### KALK'S MOTHER TO BE WAR NURSE AS TRIBUTE TO SON

Mrs. Flora F. Kalk, widowed mother of Lieut. Stanton F. Kalk, victim of the torpedoed Jacob Jones, expressed today her desire to go to France as a nurse behind the firing line.

"I feel that in nursing some poor American boy that I will be paying the greatest possible tribute to my own dear one," the mother said. "I have not made any arrangements for going across, so I don't know when or how it will be done."

Mrs. Kalk was visiting in Omaha when news of her son's death reached her. She talked with Secretary of the Navy Daniels on her arrival in Washington last week, but the latter was unable, on account of lack of information about the disaster, to give the mother any additional news.

Stanton Kalk, who was well known in Washington, entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1912, graduating in 1916. He was serving on the superdreadnaught Florida when the United States declared war against Germany. He was transferred after this to the mine layer San Francisco, operating in the North Atlantic. He was an only son, and with his death only one member of the original Kalk family remains, namely, Mrs. Flora F. Kalk, his mother.

Col. E. M. House, whose safe arrival at New York with his party after an uneventful return trip from Europe has been announced, will arrive in Washington tomorrow to confer with the President, and report the results of the allied conference at Paris and the supreme war council at Versailles.

The allies' conference has "brought things to a focus," said Colonel House in New York last night. One of the first results of the meetings is the allied naval conference, formation of which has just been announced.

#### Co-ordination Effected.

"Before the conference," Colonel House stated when interviewed last night, "co-ordination was not going on well."

"But we are working now well together. We got together principally on the economic situation, embargo, food and finance. I regard the trip as a complete success."

Colonel House said that the governments must ratify all action taken. He said an announcement of the work accomplished by the American mission might be expected from Washington shortly.

The supreme war council, he said, is a permanent body and the United States has a permanent place in it, if (Continued on Page 3, Column 4.)

### FORECASTER GIVES NO HOPE FOR RISE IN TEMPERATURE

Washington today continued in the grasp of the cold wave, following the coldest night of the winter. At midnight the mercury dropped to 9 degrees above zero. There will probably be a light snow tomorrow, predicts the Weather Bureau today.

After midnight the temperature began to rise, reaching 17 degrees at 4 o'clock this morning. At 5 o'clock the mercury registered 18; 6 o'clock, 18; 7 o'clock, 18; 8 o'clock, 12; 9 o'clock, 11; 10 o'clock, 11, and 11 o'clock, 11.

Many skating enthusiasts and winter sport lovers are today taking advantage of the ice on the pond at the Zoological Park. A sheet of ice covers the Tidal Basin, but the snow there makes skating impossible.

### GOES FREE AS CHURCH BELLS CALL TO WORSHIP

#### Mrs. Means Sobs and Prays as Jury Ends Deliberation of More Than Seventeen Hours Without Rest.

CONCORD, N. C., Dec. 16.—Gaston R. Means, charged with the murder of Mrs. Maude A. King, was acquitted today, the jury returning a verdict at 10:30 after deliberation of more than seventeen hours.

As church bells summoned villagers to divine worship he slipped from the court-house a free man.

Gripping scenes marks the report of the jurymen to Judge Cline of their decision to free the confidential adviser of the wealthy widow.

The wife of the prisoner was supported by relatives as she walked into the court room this morning, pale and haggard.

Means, who appeared to have had a refreshing night's sleep, entered the room smiling and confident. He took his seat quietly directly in front of the jury, smiled broadly at them, and waved his hand in familiar greetings.

#### Family Was Held Back.

Mrs. Means and the other members of the family were ordered by Judge Cline to remain back of the court rail separating counsel and witnesses from the audience.

Surrounded by relatives and friends, Mrs. Means sat weeping and praying audibly as the jury filed in. The judge read his instructions to the jury in a slow, clear tone, pausing occasionally to glance at Mrs. Means. As the foreman rose to deliver his verdict, a hush came over the audience. Mrs. Means ceased her weeping. Means sat with a rigid smile.

#### "Find Defendant 'Of Guilty.'"

"We find the defendant is not guilty," declared the foreman.

Mrs. Means again burst into tears. "I thank God," she cried, raising her eyes toward Heaven.

Means rose, smiling still, from his chair and heartily shook the hands of numerous friends that crowded about him.

"I had no doubt of the outcome," he said.

The audience greeted the decision with approval, the noise and excitement reaching such a point that Judge Cline was forced to bang the gavel loudly to make himself heard when he said:

#### Court Discharges Means.

"The defendant is discharged."

Means immediately left the room, supporting his wife, now smiling through her tears, but still sobbing. They went immediately to their home, where they refused to receive callers.

The verdict was no surprise to those who have watched the progress of the case. The smiling countenance of Means had been reflected in that of all of his friends, except his wife, who has apparently felt the strain of the trial more than the defendant himself.

#### Jury Was Tired Out.

The jury, which went out late yesterday afternoon, after deliberation of three hours and twenty minutes, notified Sheriff Caldwell that they were going to sleep before attempting further to arrive at a decision.

It is expected that Assistant District Attorney Dooling, of New York, who has been conducting the prosecution, will immediately take steps to have Means removed to New York for trial under other charges. There is said to be considerable evidence against Means connecting him with pro-German plotters. The presence of Secret Service operatives at his hearing and trial left emphasis to this supposition.

#### "Something Up Sleeve."

At the outset of the trial it was declared that should Means be acquitted, Dooling "had something" up his sleeve. It is probable that very little time will elapse before the New York official takes some definite action.

#### Case Goes to Jury.

Judge E. B. Cline, sitting in the case, completed his charge and sent the jury to its deliberations at 8:37 o'clock last night.

Judge Cline spent two hours and six minutes in delivering his charge. Couched in the elegant language of a North Carolinian and delivered in the soft dialect of the South, the charge was most impressive. He spent considerable time in outlining to the jury its duty, and explained to them the three verdicts which they (Continued on Page 2, Column 2.)